Redistricting Starts This Summer

Using 2010 census data, the City’s Geographic Information Systems technicians have estimated the population in each council district. The population total reflects the census count on April 1, 2010.

Re-balancing council districts by redrawing boundary lines to equalize population counts, a process known as redistricting, will begin after the city council elections in May. Council district lines must be redrawn so that differences in population size among the seven districts are no more than 10 percent. In addition to population balancing, federal law requires that the new district plan address representation of African American and Hispanic voters.

The City Charter specifies seven single-member districts and a mayor elected at-large. Changing the number of council districts would require voter approval through a charter election.

Assisted by a law firm specializing in redistricting, the council will create an illustrative council district plan that will be presented in one or more public hearings this summer. The public can comment on the plan at the hearings. The council will take all public comment into consideration in adopting a final plan. A new council district map must be approved by a majority of the city council.

By September 1, the council should have finalized a plan and will submit it to the U.S. Department of Justice for legal clearance. If approved, the new district plan would go into effect for the city council elections in May 2012.

Library Programs for Children and Teens during June

The summer reading program for kids—Dig Up a Good Book—kicks off on Saturday, June 4, at 4 p.m. at the Georgetown Public Library, 402 W. Eighth Street, when the Impact Dance Troupe transports the whole family to Wonderland. After their performance there will be food and more fun, and you can register the kids for the Texas Reading Club.

Throughout June the general weekly schedule for children’s programs will be as follows:

**Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.** — entertainment for 4- to 7-year-olds, crafts for 8- to 12-year-olds

**Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.** — entertainment for all ages, best for 6 and older

**Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.** — storytime (ages 6 and older) or demonstrations

**Fridays at 1 p.m.** — interactive events for tweens only (ages 9-12)

For full details about the programs and other summer events, go to library.georgetown.org.

Help Bring the WOWmobile to Georgetown

The Friends of the Georgetown Public Library want to buy a bookmobile for the library, and they’re working to achieve their goal of $150,000 by the fall of 2011. The bookmobile will be called the WOWmobile—WOW stands for Words on Wheels.

If the fundraising goes well, next year the Georgetown Public Library will begin using the WOWmobile to provide materials to places like nursing homes, retirement communities, the Boys and Girls Club, Getsemani Center, apartment complexes, and City swimming pools. To help make the WOWmobile a reality, you can donate to the Friends of the Georgetown Library at wowbookmobile.org or bring cash or checks to the library.

Read Stuff, Do Stuff, Eat Stuff is the theme of the summer program for teens. Games 2U with their mobile gaming theater will be the featured entertainment at the kickoff on Wednesday, June 8 at 3 p.m., but there also will be a giant hamster ball, food, and other kinds of fun. Activities throughout the summer include a Bollywood day, airbrush tattoos, drawing workshop with Tony Sansevero, song writing workshop, Lego robots, Teen Iron Chef, yoga and smoothies, movies, and crafts. The third annual art show will also take place. Teens who read 10 hours or more during the months of June and July will be eligible for prizes at the end of the summer. The summer program is free and open to all teens ages 12 through 18. For more information visit teenspace.georgetown.org or email Teen Librarian Bethni King at Bethni.King@georgetown.org or call (512) 930-3551.
**June Events**

**Farmers Markets**
- **Sun City Market**, Tuesdays 9 a.m. to Noon, 2 Texas Drive at Social Center
- **Georgetown Market**, Thursdays 3:30 – 6:30 p.m., E. Morrow Street
Details at www.gtmia.com

**The Palace Theater**
- *Cabaret*, May 13 – June 12
- *Wait Until Dark*, June 24 – July 17
Details at GeorgetownPalace.com, or call (512) 869-7469.

**First Friday**
- Downtown live music, shops and restaurants are open late. See the Downtown Georgetown Association website at TheGeorgetownSquare.com.

**Market Days, June 11**
- Handmade arts and crafts, food, and more on the Square from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Details at TheGeorgetownSquare.com.

**Softball League Registration**
- Early registration for the Softball Summer II season is June 20 through July 18. Late registration is July 19 – 25. The season will begin the week of August 1, and each team will play an eight-game season. The registration fee is $335 per team for early registration, and $380 per team for late registration. Go to parks.georgetown.org for more details.

**Georgetown Festival of the Arts**

**Johannes Brahms**
- **June 2 – 5**

The Georgetown Festival of the Arts enters its seventh season with a celebration of the music of Johannes Brahms. Held in several Georgetown venues June 2 – 5, Brahms in Georgetown offers a series of musical performances and lectures.

Featured performers include the Shanghai and Miró Quartets, baritone Weston Hurt, a Southwestern University graduate who is now a nationally-renowned opera star, and soprano Mela Dailey, known for her performances with many American orchestras and opera companies, including the Austin Lyric Opera.

The annual Saturday night concert in San Gabriel Park, with the Temple Symphony and Georgetown High School orchestra, band, and chorus, will conclude with a brilliant fireworks show, sponsored by the Williamson County Sun. The Festival Chorus, conducted by Kenny Sheppard, will conclude the Festival on Sunday with Brahms’ sublime German Requiem, with large orchestra and chorus, comprising the San Gabriel Chorale and Chorus Austin, with Weston Hurt and Mela Dailey. Noted author Jan Swafford, whose biography of Brahms is the definitive work on the master, will deliver the keynote lecture. Go to www.gtwnfestival.org for details and ticket information.

**Was the Work Done Right?**

**Hiring a Contractor**

Homeowners may not think of getting a building permit for projects like a new fence, enclosed porch, or patio cover. Consider a building permit and completed inspection as an audit by a trained professional to ensure the work was done correctly. Why is that important?

**Insurance Coverage.** Construction work that was not properly permitted and inspected may not be covered by your insurance company. It could even lead to the cancellation of your homeowner’s policy. Getting the work permitted and inspected assures the insurance company that work was done correctly and safely.

**Safety.** Building permits and inspections are your check to make sure that the work met or exceeded minimum safety standards. A deck, patio cover, or electrical outlet that is not properly installed could pose a serious danger to your family or guests.

**Resale.** Interested buyers can contact the City to inquire about permits and inspections. Having the right paperwork on file gives confidence to a prospective buyer that improvements were properly permitted and inspected.

**Buyer Protection.** Permits and inspections involve trained professionals who make sure you have not been swindled by an unethical contractor. A final inspection is proof that the job was done correctly before you make your final payment to the contractor.

A variety of projects may require a permit—call (512) 930-2550 to see if you need one. Many contractors will acquire permits and contact the City for inspections, but the responsibility is that of the homeowner.

To confirm that a permit has been obtained or that inspections have been done, please contact the Inspections Services at (512) 930-2550 or inspections@georgetown.org.